

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 5, please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Figure 5 is a perspective view of lid 54. Lid 54 extends over heating chamber 12 (shown in Figure 1) and liner assembly 50. Second gas delivery system 60 is coupled to lid 54 and includes an inlet tube 86, a distribution tube 88, a plurality of diffuser cups 90, and a coupling 92. When in use, inlet tube 86 is connected to a gas source (not shown) and delivers gas to distribution tube 88 via coupling 92. Diffuser cups 90 extend downward from lid 54 into heating chamber 12 and liner assembly 50 to discharge the gas into an upper portion 93 (see Figure 3) of SWET box 10. More specifically, diffuser cups 90 slow the flow of protective gas and thereby facilitate controlling the flow of gas into SWET box 10 and facilitate reducing an amount of noise generated as the gas enters SWET box 10. When three diffuser cups 90 are used, as shown in Figure 5, lid 54 is positioned on SWET box 10 such that one diffuser cup 90 extends into welding chamber 80 and the two remaining diffuser cups 90 extend between curved end wall 74 and SWET box end wall 18. In alternative embodiments more or less than three ~~diffuser cups~~ diffuser cups 90 may be utilized.

At page 6, please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] First gas delivery system 56 is placed on the ~~bottom-58~~ bottom of welding chamber 80. Suitable plumbing is provided to connect first gas delivery system 56 to fluid inlet 28 which is connected to a protective gas source (not shown). First gas delivery system 56 includes an array of perforated tubes 94 that diffuse the protective gas and facilitate introducing the protective gas at a reduced a lower noise level in comparison to open flow through fluid inlet 28. Metallic mesh material 66 is packed around perforated tubes 94 to further facilitate diffusing the protective gas and reducing the noise level. A component part to be repaired, such as turbine blade 30, is placed in channel 104 of blade holder 62. Blade holder 62 is then positioned in welding chamber 80 with perforated base 100 of blade holder 62 resting on mesh material 66 and perforated tubes 94.

At page 7, please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] Lid 54 is positioned on SWET box 10 such that one of ~~diffusers~~ diffuser cups 90 extends downwardly into welding chamber 80 and the remaining two ~~diffusers~~ diffuser cups 90 extend downwardly into a space between curved end wall 74 and end wall 18 of SWET box 10. Inlet tube 86 on lid 54 is then connected using suitable plumbing to a source of protective gas (not shown).

At page 7, please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] When a desired temperature is reached inside SWET box 10, the repair is made. The flow of protective gas is continued during the repair to facilitate maintaining the protective atmosphere. In the case of blade tip repairs on turbine blade 30, weld beads are applied to blade tip 36 to build up the blade material so that the design contour of blade 30 can be restored. Liner assembly 50 facilitates the production of weld beads without contaminates and without cracks within the weld beads.